

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of sertraline hydrochloride Form V ~~comprising~~consisting essentially of:
 - a. suspending/dissolving sertraline acetate in suitable solvents to form a mixture;
 - b. adjusting the pH of the mixture to a value of from 1 to 2 with aqueous hydrogen chloride at a temperature of 25°C;
 - c. stirring the ~~reaction~~-mixture at 25°C; and
 - d. isolating and drying under vacuum to obtain sertraline hydrochloride Form V.
2. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 1, wherein in step b, the pH of the mixture is adjusted with hydrogen chloride gas at elevated temperatures ranging from 40°C to 65°C; in step c, the reaction mixture is cooled gradually over more than 2 hours to bring the temperature to 25°C-20°C; and in step d, the sertraline hydrochloride obtained is sertraline hydrochloride Form II.
3. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 1, wherein in step b, the pH of the mixture is adjusted with hydrogen chloride gas at elevated temperatures ranging between 40°C to 65°C; in step c, the reaction mixture is cooled rapidly in less than 30 minutes to bring the temperature to 15°C to 20°C; and in step d, the sertraline hydrochloride obtained is sertraline hydrochloride Form III.
4. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 3, wherein the cooling is done rapidly over a few minutes.
5. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 1, wherein in step b, the pH of the mixture is adjusted with hydrogen chloride gas at elevated temperatures ranging between 40°C to

65°C; in step c, the reaction mixture is cooled rapidly in less than 30 minutes to bring the temperature to 15°C to 25°C; and in step d, the drying is carried out in a fluid bed drier, and the sertraline hydrochloride obtained is sertraline hydrochloride Form IV.

6. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 5, wherein the sertraline acetate is suspended/dissolved in solvents such as methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, ethyl acetate, or mixtures thereof.

7. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 5, wherein the solvent used is isopropanol.

8. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 2, wherein the sertraline acetate is suspended/dissolved in solvents such as methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, ethyl acetate, toluene or mixtures thereof.

9. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 2, wherein the solvent used is a mixture of isopropanol and toluene.

10. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 9, wherein toluene is present between 2 to 8% by weight of the total volume of solvent.

11-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the sertraline acetate is suspended/dissolved in a solvent selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, ethyl acetate, water and mixtures thereof.

15. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 14, wherein the solvent used is water.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of sertraline hydrochloride

Form V ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of:

- a. suspending/dissolving sertraline base in acetic acid to form a mixture;
- b. adjusting the pH of the mixture with aqueous hydrogen chloride;
- c. cooling the ~~reaction~~-mixture; and
- d. isolating and drying the sertraline hydrochloride to obtain Form V.

18. (Original) A process according to claim 17, wherein the pH of the mixture is adjusted to a value from 1-2.

19. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 17, wherein the cooling is done gradually to bring the temperature from 30°C to 5°C - 0°C.

20-29. (Canceled)

30. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 3, wherein the sertraline acetate is suspended/dissolved in solvents such as methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, ethyl acetate, toluene or mixtures thereof.

31. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 3, wherein the solvent used is a mixture of isopropanol and toluene.

32. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 31, wherein toluene is present between 2 to 8% by weight of the total volume of solvent.